

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

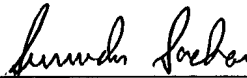
The present new application is a continuation of copending parent U.S. application serial No. 09/987,862. The present new continuation application is submitted to prosecute new claims 1-20 presented as the original claims in the present new continuation application. Those new claims are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Further, by the present preliminary amendment the specification is amended to reflect the status of the present continuation application, and to amend the specification to correct for one minor informality as in the parent of the present application.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination to newly submitted claims 1-20. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
EHK/SNS:smi

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423